

Fencing Rules

Adopted at General Meeting

October 29, 1894

Foils.

1. Foil competitions shall be conducted by four judges for each bout, who shall be experienced Amateur Fencers, selected from different clubs, if possible, and whose decision shall be final and without appeal.
2. Each contestant shall fence a bout with every other contestant for an aggregate of five touches.
3. Any judge upon seeing a touch shall stop the bout, and thereupon a vote shall be taken. A touch shall be awarded only upon the agreement of at least three of the judges. Neither of the judges nor the contestants shall discuss the touches made or claimed, nor shall any comment be made upon them.
4. Each judge, without consulting his fellow judges, shall award from 1 to 3 points for each touch made according to its value- a fair touch to count 1- a good touch to count 2- an excellent touch to count 3.
5. Each judge shall make a record of the points he allows for each touch as it is made, and at the close of the bout may award to each contestant 1 point or any fraction thereof for general good form, he shall then sign his record and hand it to the Scorer. The judges shall not disclose to one another their awards.
6. The Score shall be the average of the points thus awarded.
7. Touches shall count only when made upon the body within the limits bounded by the collar of the fencing jacket, the median line, the hip, and the line drawn from the hip to the posterior limit of the armpit, around the front of the arm and along the crest of the shoulder to the collar. A touch on any of the boundary lines shall count.
8. Whenever a touch is made outside the limits, and it is evident to the judges that it would have been good if the adversary had not made an illegitimate movement, it shall count. An illegitimate movement is one by which the adversary seeks to avoid a touch within the limits prescribed by purposely presenting some other part of his body to the point.
9. A touch is of no value when the point is twisted on to the body after the slap of the foil.
10. A touch whether fair or foul invalidates the riposte.
11. The competitor attacked should parry; if a stop thrust be made it shall only count in favor of the giver, provided he be not touched at all.
12. The Judges must stop a corps-a-corps as soon as made.
13. A disarmament is of no value. A touch immediately following a disarmament counts.
14. Each contestant shall fence with the same hand throughout the bout.

15. A point scored from a thrust started with the elbow behind the body (jab thrusts) shall not count.
16. After a touch, fair or foul, the contestants shall come back to guard in the middle of the marked space.
17. The contestant scoring the highest aggregate of points shall be declared the winner, the next highest second, and so on.
18. Each competitor shall wear a white fencing suit, with the median line so indicated by black tape or stitching that it may be plainly distinguished by the judges while the bout is in progress.
19. Contestants shall fence within a marked space twenty feet long and thirty-six inches wide, with a mark plainly indicating the center. Should any part of a contestant's foot extend beyond the boundary line, one-half of a point shall be deducted from his final score for each offence. When a contestant oversteps a boundary line, the Judges shall stop the bout and start the contestants again in the middle of the marked space.
20. Foil blades shall not be more than thirty-four inches in length.

Duelling Swords.

1. Duelling sword competitions shall be conducted by four judges for each bout, who shall be experienced amateur fencers, selected from different clubs, if possible, and whose decision shall be final and without appeal.
2. Each contestant shall fence a bout with every other contestant for an aggregate of three touches. Each touch to count one point.
3. A judge, upon seeing a touch, shall stop the bout; and thereupon a vote shall be taken. A touch shall be awarded only upon the agreement of at least three of the judges. Neither judges nor the contestants shall discuss the touches made or claimed, nor shall any comment be made upon them.
4. The contestant scoring the highest aggregate of points shall be declared the winner, the next highest second, and so on.
5. A touch on any part of the adversary counts.
6. A disarmament is of no value. A touch immediately following a disarmament counts.
7. If both contestants are touched by simultaneous lunges, the judges shall deduct one-quarter of a point for each offence from each contestant.
8. The diameter of the bell guard shall not exceed five inches, and the blade shall not be more than thirty-four inches long.
9. Each competitor shall wear a white fencing suit and white glove.

Sabres.

1. Sabre competitions shall be governed by the same rules as the foil competitions, except that a cut or thrust on any part of the body above the hip shall count, and the limitation of space shall not hold, nor shall the white fencing suit be obligatory.
2. Sabre blades shall not be more than thirty-three inches long, nor less than one-half inch wide at the heel and tapering to not less than three-eighths of an inch at the tip.